LIBRARY OF
PRINCETON
N. J.
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# CHINA.

---

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR

## MISSION CIRCLES AND BANDS.

---

PHILADELPHIA:

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

No. 1334 Chestnut Street.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Princeton Theological Seminary Library

https://archive.org/details/chinaquestionsan00unse

# CHINA.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR

## MISSION CIRCLES AND BANDS.

*Q.* What are some of the names by which China is known?

Cathay, the Middle Kingdom, the Flowery Land, the Celestial Empire and the Land of Sinim.

*Q.* How ancient are its records?

They reach farther back than the time of Abraham.

*Q.* What are the great divisions of the Chinese Empire?

China Proper, Manchuria, Mongolia, Thibet, East Turkestan and Jungaria.

*Q.* How many people are there in the Empire?

The number is variously estimated from three hundred and fifty millions to four hundred millions.

*Q.* Can you illustrate this great number, so that we can understand it better?

Make an army of them, and let them move before you at the rate of thirty miles a day, week after week, month after month, and they will not pass in less than twenty-three and a half years; or if all the people in the world should march in a single line, every fourth person would be a Chinese.

*Q.* How many Chinese are estimated to die every day?

Thirty-three thousand.

*Q.* What is China Proper?

That part of the empire, which was conquered by the Manchus or Tartars in 1664. It is divided into eighteen provinces, and is the only part of the empire settled by Chinese.

*Q.* How does China Proper compare in size with the whole empire, and with the United States?

It comprises one half the area of the empire, and is about equal to twenty-eight of our states.

*Q.* Name the provinces where the missionaries of the Presbyterian Church are stationed?

The provinces of Chihli* containing Peking;

*All Chinese names of two syllables are accented on the second syllable.

Shantung containing Chefoo and Tungchow; Kiangsu containing Nanking, Suchow and Shanghai; Chekiang containing Hangchow and Ningpo; and Kwangtong containing Canton.

*Q.* What is the climate of China?

In Peking the winters are very cold and the summers hot; in Ningpo the winters are mild, but they have a great deal of rain, and much miasma in the summer and autumn; in Canton they have a long summer, and need no stove heat in the winter.

*Q.* Do the Chinese use stoves for warmth?

At Ningpo they use only foot and hand stoves. In North China, they have the *kang,* or raised mason-work bed which is heated by burning straw inside of it. They also have in Peking an open furnace in which they burn coal or charcoal. Sometimes whole families are suffocated by the carbonic acid gas which is often allowed to pass freely into the room where they are sleeping.

*Q.* Of what do the Chinese build their houses?

In the cities they are of grey brick, built around an open court on which the doors and windows open. In the villages the houses are often built of mud with thatched roofs, and the floors are of earth which has been beaten hard.

*Q.* Do they have glass windows?

Not often. Their windows are of paper pasted over lattice-work, or of oyster shells scraped thin.

*Q.* What is the ordinary food of the Chinese?

Rice, salt fish and vegetables. Meat is a luxury. In North China they eat corn-meal and millet cakes, sweet potatoes, etc.

*Q.* Do they use milk or beef?

No. They do not use milk in any form, and they think it wrong to kill the cow or water buffalo (which is more common) because they are used in tilling the ground.

*Q.* What valuable plants and trees have they that we have not?

The tea-plant, the camphor-tree, the bamboo, the varnish-tree, wax-trees, soap-tree, tallow-tree and li-chee.

*Q.* What valuable insect gives employment to multitudes of men, women and children?

The silk-worm.

*Q.* What kinds of game are found in China?

Beautiful gold and silver pheasants, wild ducks, grouse, quail and deer.

*Q.* Mention some of the customs of the people which are directly opposed to those of Europeans.

"We shake a friend's hand; the Chinaman

shakes his own hands. We uncover the head as a mark of respect; they keep the head covered. We cut our finger nails; they think it aristocratic to have the nails from three to five inches long, often protecting them with a silver sheath. We blacken our shoes, they whiten the soles of their shoes."

*Q.* Mention some contrasts in wedding customs.

"Here young people prefer to do their own courting; there the parents, with the help of go-betweens, select the husbands and wives for their children, and these often do not see each other till the wedding is over."

*Q.* Give some contrasts in funeral customs.

"A coffin would not be considered a very acceptable present here, but in China a coffin is often given to a parent or friend while in perfect health." Our mourning dress is black, theirs is white.

*Q.* Mention a few more differences.

"Here a mother shows her affection by kissing her child, there by smelling it. We locate intellect in the brain, they in the stomach. We use a soft pillow; they, a block of wood. Our store signs are horizontal, theirs are perpendicular. They ring bells by striking on the outside, and their screws turn in the opposite direction to ours."

*Q.* Give Wong Ning's experience illustrating other customs.

"My name Wong Ning. I come this country thirteen years old. Little boy have hard time on home China. Have to get up and go school six o'clock—very early that—come home get breakfast eight o'clock, and lunch twelve o'clock then stay till six o'clock in the day. I no think Melican boy like that. Little girl no go school *at all.* Little girl no speak to boy—no! never! If China boy no like mother, no work hard for she, no send she everything. Oh! horrible! *very bad!* All sons marry, bring home wife to wait on she. No like wife so much as mother on home China. Woman, wife, little girl all work in house, sew, cook, weave cloth. When make dinner, set table very nice, then run behind curtain—then father, son, little boy, all come in, sit down, eat dinner, eat him all up. By and by woman, little girls come quiet, lift curtain, if he all gone, can come eat, if no, cannot come."

*Q.* Describe the process of foot binding?

The compression of the foot is never begun until the girls have learned to walk, generally not before five or six years of age. A cotton bandage two or three inches wide is wound tightly about the foot in every direction. This bandage is tightened until the foot is considered small enough.

The foot is then in the shape of an acute angled triangle, and the toes bent under the foot. A shoe worn by a woman twenty-two years old, measured *three inches* on the flat sole, from the tip of the toe to the heels.

*Q.* What are the principal exports from China?

Tea, silk, medicines and fire-crackers.

*Q.* The principal imports?

Cotton goods, kerosene and opium.

*Q.* Do intoxicating liquors attract the Chinese?

Very little. A drunken Chinaman is rarely seen, but opium seems to have more attractions for them than for any other people.

*Q.* What effect has it upon them?

It ruins them in mind, body and estate.

*Q.* To what extent is it used?

It has been said that one-quarter of the adult male population is addicted to opium smoking.

*Q.* What is meant by the Opium War?

The war of 1840, which began in this way. English merchants had for years been bringing opium into China. The mandarins (officials) found that it was injuring and impoverishing the people, and tried in every way to stop the trade. At length a mandarin in Canton, called Lin, com-

pelled the English merchants to give up all the opium they had on hand. Twenty thousand two hundred and eighty chests were given up, and the Chinese destroyed them all, thus showing their earnestness in suppressing the traffic. In consequence of this the English declared war against China. The Chinese were defeated and had to pay to Great Britain, for the expenses of the war, twenty-one million dollars, and opium was forced upon them.

*Q.* What *good* results followed this war?

Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai were by treaty opened to trade and consequently to missionaries.

*Q.* Are these the only ports open to foreigners?

No. In 1861, after another war with England, ten more ports were opened.

*Q.* What is the name of the present emperor of China?

Kwongsu.

*Q.* When did he ascend the throne?

In January, 1875, at the age of five years.

*Q.* To what dynasty does he belong?

He is the ninth emperor of the Tartar dynasty of Ts'ing.

*Q.* When did the Tartars come into power?

When they conquered the Chinese in 1644.

*Q.* How did the plaited queue originate?

It was imposed upon the Chinese as a badge of subjection by their conquerors, the Tartars.

*Q.* Why are they so unwilling to cut off the queue in this country?

Because if they return to China, as they all hope to do, they will be regarded as rebels.

*Q.* What was the Ming dynasty?

The last of the Chinese emperors were called Mings. Their tombs, a few days' journey from Peking, are exceedingly interesting. Great-stone images of camels, elephants, etc., stand on either side of the avenue which leads to the tombs.

*Q.* Who were the Taipings?

A set of Rebels who wished to put down the Tartars and place the Chinese again upon the throne. They wore their hair long, and unshaven, and so were called Long-haired Rebels. For many years they devastated the country, destroying city after city, and butchering thousands upon thousands of the people.

*Q.* Who was their leader?

A man from the province of Kwangse, calling himself Tin Wong, or Heavenly King.

Q. What do we know of him?

He had learned something of Jesus Christ and the Sabbath from a missionary in Canton. These ideas he mingled with his own strange fancies, and blasphemously called himself the Son of God.

*Q.* Who helped to subdue the Taipings?

Gen. Gordon, often called Chinese Gordon.

*Q.* When was this Rebellion quelled?

In the year 1864 after the fall of Nanking. The famous Porcelain Tower, nine stories high, was then destroyed.

*Q.* Was the art of printing early known in China?

Yes. It was understood nine hundred years before it was in Europe.

*Q.* What curious way have the Chinese of reckoning ages, etc.?

If a child is born on the last day of 1883, on the first day of 1885 they would say, he is *three* years old, because he has lived in three years, while really he is only *one* year old. For this reason the little Emperor may only have been three years old instead of five at his accession. We can only tell by knowing in what part of the year he was born.

*Q.* Give another example of this peculiarity.

If you hire a boat Thursday afternoon and return it Saturday morning, you must pay for its use for three full days instead of a day and a half.

*Q.* Do you remember anything similar to this in the Bible?

Yes. Jesus Christ was said to be in the grave three days, when really he was there only a whole day and a night.

*Q.* What are the three principal religions of China?

Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism.*

*Q.* What form of religion, which is included in these three systems, has more power over all classes of Chinese than any other?

Ancestral worship.

*Q.* Define it.

"It includes not only the direct worship of the dead, but all that is done for their comfort, and all that is done to avert calamities which departed spirits are supposed to bring upon the living as a punishment for inattention to their necessities."

*Q.* What singular thing grew out of this?

At the death of an emperor, even if he is very young, his successor must be younger than he, be-

* Pronounced like ow in how.

cause he must worship his predecessor, and this sort of worship is never rendered by the elder to the younger. The late emperor Tung Chi died young, without children. Prince Kong, an able statesman, was the right one to succeed him, but because he was older than the late king, little Kwongsu more distantly related, was placed upon the throne and the empire under a regency of two dowager Empresses, one of whom has since died.

*Q.* Where and when was Confucius born?

In the Shantung Province, 551 B. C.

*Q.* With whom was he contemporary?

With the prophet Daniel.

*Q.* Tell something of his life.

He was a poor boy, who always regarded his mother with affectionate reverence. At the age of twenty-two he taught history and the writings of the ancients. He studied much and became famous as a teacher. Disciples flocked to him from all regions.

*Q.* Did he become a magistrate?

Yes; and he ruled so wisely that he was idolized by the people: then jealousies drove him from home, and he wandered thirteen years in neighboring states. At the age of seventy-three he died, showing no fear, offering no prayer.

*Q.* Did he believe in the gods or teach idol worship?

No. He said "We do not understand the gods, it is best not to meddle with them."

*Q.* Did he profess to teach anything about the future?

No. He said "Let us make the best we can of the present; we know nothing of what is beyond."

*Q.* What did Confucius say of man's nature?

That it is naturally good.

*Q.* What did he teach about women?

That they have no souls.

*Q.* Give his form of the golden rule.

"What you do not wish done to yourself, do not do to others."

*Q.* What class of people are Confucianists?

All the literary men of China. Every boy who goes to school must bow to the tablet with Confucius' name on it.

*Q.* Is his image worshiped?

Not at all.

*Q.* When did Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, live?

A thousand years before Christ.

*Q.* How did Buddhism come into China?

The Emperor Mingti (A. D. 61) had a dream, which led him to send to India for books and teachers.

*Q.* What was the result?

In the course of years over three thousand Buddhist missionaries went to China, and Buddhism became the religion of the people.

*Q.* How does this compare with what is now being done by Christians for China?

All the richest Protestant nations of the world only maintain four hundred male missionaries in China, one for every million of people.

*Q.* What is the great doctrine of the Buddhists?

Transmigration of souls, or the passing of a soul from one body or state to another.

*Q.* Do true Buddhists eat meat?

No; and they fear to kill an animal, as they might destroy some soul who inhabits it.

*Q.* What is Taoism?

A system of magical rites and charms. It has a great many gods, as the god of wealth, god of war, of thunder, of small-pox, the kitchen god, etc., etc.

*Q.* What is really the religion of most of the Chinese?

A mixture of the corrupt forms of all these three religions. A man can be a Confucianist, a Taoist, and a Buddhist at the same time.

*Q.* What do you think about the so called filial piety of the Chinese?

That it is often a sham, because more attention is paid to the dead than to the living parent.

*Q.* Give a story illustrating their ideas of filial piety.

There was once a boy named Han. He often misbehaved, and his mother beat him with a bamboo rod. One day he cried after the beating: his mother was greatly surprised and said, I have beaten you many a time before and you have never cried, why do you cry to-day? "Oh, mother, he replied, you used to *hurt* me when you flogged me but now I weep because you are not strong enough to hurt me." It makes one weep, says the Chinese moralist, even to read the story.

*Q.* Give the story of dutiful Loo.

A man named Loo was very dutiful to his mother. She was a very nervous woman, and always dreadfully frightened in a thunder storm. When she died, Loo buried her in a wood, and

whenever the wind rose and a tempest threatened, he ran to the tomb, knelt down and with tears cried out, "Loo is near you, don't be afraid, mother."

*Q.* When did the Roman Catholics enter China?

In the thirteenth century.

*Q.* Who was the most successful of their missionaries?

Matteo Ricci (pronounced Richie.)

*Q.* What were his methods?

So anxious was he to please the Chinese, that he drew a map of the world, and placed China in the centre and other countries in the margin. He even combined the teachings of Confucius with those of Jesus Christ. After twenty years of patient toil, he obtained access to the Emperor. In the ten years that followed multitudes of all ranks were baptized.

*Q.* Did the Roman Catholics translate the Bible into Chinese?

They did not.

*Q.* How many priests, colleges and convents do they report now?

Six hundred European priests, about as many Chinese priests, and seventy colleges and convents.

## MISSIONS.

*Q.* Who was the first Protestant Missionary to China?

Dr. Robert Morrison, sent out in 1807, by the London Missionary Society.

*Q.* What was his great work?

The translation of the Bible into Chinese.

*Q.* What are the three missions of the Presbyterian Church in China?

The Ningpo mission, founded by Dr. McCartee in 1844; the Canton Mission, begun by Dr. Happer and others in 1845, and the Peking Mission begun at Chefoo, by Dr. Nevius in 1861.

*Q.* What five large cities are included in the Ningpo Mission?

Ningpo, Shanghai, Hangchow, Suchow and Nanking.

*Q.* What can you tell of interest about the Ningpo Mission?

It comprises thirteen churches, each having a Chinese minister.

*Q.* Have most of these men had a thorough training?

Yes, in the Boarding school, and afterwards in the Theological class.

*Q.* What did Dr. Nevius once say of the schools of Ningpo?

That while they had received only one-fourth of the time and labor of the missionaries, they had furnished more than one-half of the church members.

*Q.* What great help to missionary work do we find in Shanghai?

The large Presbyterian Mission Press, where under the superintendance of a missionary, eighty Chinamen are employed in printing books for the different missions in China.

*Q.* What departments are there in the building?

There are eight presses, a type foundry, electrotyping and stereotyping rooms and a bookbindery.

*Q.* Does the press cost the Board anything?

Not only does it pay its own expenses and those of the missionary in charge, but it brings money into the treasury.

*Q.* What interesting work do we find at Canton besides the regular preaching and school-work?

A Hospital, where Dr. Kerr has treated thousands of patients, and where these thousands have first heard of the Great Physician.

*Q.* Mention an instance showing how good is often done by hospital work.

Not long since a man asked for baptism. He lived many miles from Canton but he said that twenty years before, his grandmother had been cured at the hospital, and ever since, she had given up her idols and had taught her children to do the same.

*Q.* What are the cities or stations, as we call them, included in the Shantung and Peking Missions?

Tungchow, Chefoo, Peking and Chenanfoo.

*Q.* What mode of work has done great good in this part of China, called North China?

Itineration, that is making long tours, preaching and selling books at all the towns and villages by the way.

*Q.* Have many Chinese been added to the church in this way?

Yes, often more than a hundred have been added at one time.

*Q.* Why are Missionary Physicians very useful in China?

On account of the extreme ignorance of the native doctors, and the fact that when the people have been healed they are more ready to accept the gospel.

*Q.* Do the Chinese officials show any interest in missionary work?

More in the medical work than in any other. One has founded a hospital at Tientsin, (North China), and another has just asked Dr. Atterbury, one of our missionaries in Peking, to start a medical college and send to America for teachers. The officials promise liberal aid in putting up the buildings.

*Q.* Mention the names of ten of our noble missionaries who have died working for China.

The Revs. Walter Lowrie, Culbertson, Way, Quarterman, Rankin, Reuben Lowrie, Preston, Wm. Morrison, Green and M'Ilvaine.

*Q.* Who are our oldest missionaries now in China?

Rev. Drs. Happer and Nevius.

*Q.* How many converts do all the thirty-three societies working in China number?

Twenty-four thousand.

*Q.* How many in the Presbyterian mission?

Over two thousand.

*Q.* What text impresses some of the Chinese more than it does many Christian people in this land?

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

*Q.* What did an old Chinaman say to Mr. Corbett?

"How long ago did you say Jesus Christ came?" "Nearly nineteen hundred years ago." "Why I can't understand it. What have your people been doing all this while? Here I am *eighty* years old and I *never heard* it till now."

*Q.* What did an aged Chinese woman say to the missionary when asked why she put off being baptized?

She said "I *do* love the Lord Jesus and I think He has taken away my sins, but," the tears streaming down her cheeks, "you know Jesus said to His disciples, 'go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,' now I am a poor old woman nearly seventy, and nearly blind, I cannot go into all the world."

*Q.* What did she say she *could* do?

She said, "I am willing to tell my husband and son, and his wife, when he marries. I am willing to tell my neighbors, and I could perhaps go to one or two villages. Tell me, if the Lord will accept this of a poor old woman of my age?"

*Q.* What did the missionary say?

"That is all the Lord wants: He wants each of us to do our best." Then she looked up with eyes full of earnestness and said, "Tell me, can I be a disciple, and be baptized without going into foreign countries?" Yes. "Then I am ready to be baptized whenever you like."